

urbanHIST Newsletter

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4 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



First Consortium Kick-off Meeting

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
October 2016

The urbanHIST kick-off meeting, organised by Bauhaus-Universität Weimar successfully took place on October 17 – 19, 2016 in Weimar, Germany with a considerable participation from the consortium members.

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urbanHIST ESR Recruitment Process

Universidad de Valladolid
January 2017

The urbanHIST recruitment procedure for 15 PhD positions took place on January 18 – 20, 2017 at Universidad de Valladolid, Spain.

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History of European Urbanism in the 20th Century

urbanHIST is a multidisciplinary research and training project which aims to develop and sustainably promote a joint understanding of 20th century European urbanism.



Traces of the past cumulating in one site – Halle/Saale, Germany | Photo by Max Welch Guerra

urban planning in the 20th century

Throughout the 20th century, urban planning constituted itself as an important tool to spatially steer the development of societies. This applies to Europe more so than to any other continent. Urban planning contributed – regardless different forms and approaches – significantly to the emergence of the welfare state, strong economies and a relatively balanced settlement structure. However, urban planning also caused the suppression and destruction of some population groups, alongside natural and cultural resources. With the collapse of state socialism in 1990, and the increasing importance of the EU, the 20th century ended with a multi-layered convergence in regard to the implementation of urban planning as a regulative and shaping instrument.

lacking knowledge of the European dimension of 20th century urbanism

Most studies on 20th century urban planning adopt a national perspective, while studies aiming to provide an overview usually focus on certain

countries with special attention to the generation of planning innovations in the advanced capitalist countries. The mainstream planning historiography mostly ignores not only a majority of European countries, but also important aspects of the history of urbanism like the function of urban planning as an instrument of nation-building, as a resource of power for dictatorships or as vehicle to homogenise the development of bigger areas of the continent.

urbanHIST – opening new research spaces

urbanHIST considers the whole Europe, which for us reaches from Portugal to Russia, from Ireland to Greece, from Finland to Italy. We ask for changes in tasks and functions of urbanism for the respective societies. We research the development of urban planning as task of the public sector as well as its clear involvement for the growth society and the changes in dealing with the inherited city. Hereby, we don't establish one path as the standard, the others as deviations but we intend to capture the differentness. We will reconstruct the development of ur-

ban planning as scientific discipline as well as the manner a historiography of European urban planning was done so far.

the European dimension

Our common language in urbanHIST will be English, though, thanks to the Early Stage Researchers, the cooperating universities and partner organisations linguistically we cover nearly the whole Europe. This

urbanHIST is jointly run by a Spanish, a Swedish, a Slovak and a German university

aspect is essential as many historic sources will be accessible only in the regional language. urbanHIST is jointly run by a Spanish, a Swedish, a Slovak and a German university.

The 15 Early Stage Researchers have just started or will do so within the next months until September 2017 the latest. Their research is funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action for three years for each researcher. They are

embedded into a network of high-profile academics and practitioners, in a multidisciplinary environment between architecture and politics, history, urbanism, and economics under the joint supervision of two of the four universities. Having successfully completed their research, they will be awarded a double degree. Secondments to the partner institutions, colloquia and conferences, trainings in seven qualification tracks will improve their employability in academia and beyond.

sharing knowledge

In reaction to the identified shortcomings of so far historiography on urbanism, we pay special attention to the dissemination of urbanHIST's findings and research results already during the process of the project. Thus, we intend to encourage a vivid and fruitful debate on the history of urban planning and on the European 20th Century. Besides the website and facebook, this newsletter is the medium which will inform and update you in a 3-month rhythm on latest urbanHIST activities and findings.

Max Welch Guerra
Project director



Photo by Lukáš Katriňák

Dear readers,

welcome to the first issue of urbanHIST newsletter.

Besides the implementation of a number of professional challenges and an excellent PhD study, the high quality of the public communication on our work, on achieving the project objectives and on the effective use of project resources also belong among the priorities of the urbanHIST project. We intend to use several tools to meet this priority - one of them being the urbanHIST newsletter, the first issue of which you are reading at this very moment.

UrbanHIST newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis, as a free-of-charge electronic medium. It will not be available only on the project's website (www.urbanhist.eu), with the possibility of subscription, but also on the official websites of urbanHIST beneficiaries and on urbanHIST social media.

The newsletter summarizes all major events and activities of the early stage researchers and the consortium members inside and outside urbanHIST. The newsletter provides a great opportunity for researchers to share their work, expectations and opinions. Furthermore, the newsletter will also present personal profiles and interviews as well as new or interesting publications, conferences and events. The urbanHIST newsletter welcomes the input from the outside of the consortium and hopes to communicate and discuss the project philosophy and findings beyond the primary academic audience.

We cordially invite you all to contribute to the newsletter. UrbanHIST Newsletter welcomes major (for example profiles) and short articles (reviews, announcements, calls for paper etc.).

I wish you a pleasant reading and hope that you will share the newsletter with your colleagues.

Martin Pekár
Chief editor

urbanHIST calendar

PAST ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2016

- Official start of the urbanHIST implementation
- Kick-off meeting of the consortium team, Weimar, Germany

NOVEMBER 2016

- Launching www.urbanhist.eu and urbanHIST social media
- Publication of the first call for urbanHIST ESR-positions

DECEMBER 2016

- Receiving applications and inviting applicants for the selection procedure
- Submitting urbanHIST session proposal at the fifth International Meeting EAHN 2018 Tallinn

JANUARY 2017

- Selection procedure for the ESR positions, Valladolid, Spain
- Accepting ESRs for 10 positions
- Creating the Advisory Board

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017

- Preparations for contracting ESR, preparation of bilateral Cotutelle Agreements, dissemination activities
- Publication of the second call for urbanHIST ESR-positions, deadline 31.05.2017
- Submitting urbanHIST session proposal at the 14th International Conference EAUH 2018 Rome

PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2017

- UrbanHIST ESRs recruited in 1st call starting their research activities
- Publication of the first issue of urbanHIST newsletter.

MAY 2017

- ESR Kick-off / NWWW 1 meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week 1), Weimar, Germany

MAY – JULY 2017

- Cotutelle contracts signed
- Career Development Plans of ESRs signed
- Publication of urbanHIST manual
- Launching the ESR urbanHIST blog
- Selection procedure for open ESR positions, Košice, Slovakia.
- First webinars, open lecture series, supervision meetings - public events announced via www.urbanhist.eu and social media



Photo by Thomas Müller

First Consortium Kick-off Meeting

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany
October 2016

It is now, in April 2017, that the research activities under the roof of urbanHIST are starting. Within the next months the project will become more and more visible within the scientific communities.

This is thanks to the impressive number of currently 10 out of 15 research projects conducted by our Early Stage Researchers which will contribute to the purpose of urban-

HIST: the creation and promotion of a pan-european understanding of 20th century urbanism in Europe. And it is thanks to the top-class network of academic and non-academic

partner organisations as well as the highly appreciated Advisory Board within which the research activities are embedded.

Coming to this point, urbanHIST already has its own history: the preparation of the proposal of our Innovative Training Network for the European Commission's Horizon 2020 call took about a year and a half of time, establishing the contacts between the four beneficiaries

through an academic discourse, detecting and defining the research gap and the desire itself has even a longer-lasting record.

After the positive evaluation of the urbanHIST proposal, the contract between the European Commission and the four beneficiaries was signed in August 2016. In October 2016 the implementation of the project officially started.

A consortium kick-off took place in Weimar immediately following the official project start. All beneficiaries as well as three partner organisations were represented. The meeting served two main purposes:

On the one hand, a joint understanding of urbanHIST mission was further developed in fruitful discussions. The perspectives provided by the Partner Organisations which were represented enriched the discussion and broadened the view.

On the other hand, main decisions were made concerning project-principles, budgeting, training activities and next steps. The board of directors decided on the composition of the Advisory Board and the recruitment process was jointly and content-led planned.

As a result of the kick-off, the first call for the 15 Early Stage Researcher positions was launched. During the months following the kick-off, more and more formal and administrative steps between the institutions involved were prepared and taken.



Photo by Thomas Müller

urbanHIST ESR Recruitment Process

Universidad de Valladolid, Spain
January 2017

In December 2016, the urbanHIST consortium received 55 applications from ambitious researchers at an early stage of their career who are eager to continue their research activities on one of the 15 urbanHIST positions.

The overall research topic – the history of European urbanism in the 20th century – hereby attracted applicants not just from Europe but from all over the world: 20 nationalities were represented among the applicants, 38 applications were sent in by EU-citizens, 17 by others. The academic background of the applicants was diverse and comprised besides architecture, urbanism, planning and history also other humanities. Three out of four applications were from female researchers.

After a systematic and criteria-led review of all applications, 36 candidates had the opportunity to present themselves to the consortium. Between January 17 and 20, 2017 all Local Directors as well as most of the supervisors from our four universities jointly conducted the job interviews in Valladolid. 12 candidates were personally present, the other 24 candidates did the interview via skype. The professionalism of the candidates was amazing, the

research proposals they presented were innovative and covered a huge range of different perspectives. The potential and the relevance of urbanHIST became clearly visible during these days.

Nevertheless, a choice had to be made and the decision by the scientists in charge led to the successful nomination of candidates for 10 positions, out of these four in Valladolid, three in Karlskrona, two in Košice and one in Weimar. They represent 10 different nationalities, six of them are from European Union Countries, the other four are from outside the European Union. However, all of them were

awarded a Master Degree from a university within the European Union. The academic backgrounds of the assigned urbanHIST early stage researchers are diverse, too. Architects, planners, geographers, historians and urbanists with different specializations are among them. Two of the recruited researchers are male, the other eight are female. Most of them are contracted by now and

The professionalism of the candidates was amazing, the research proposals they presented were innovative and covered a huge range of different perspectives



Photo by Martin Pekár

have started their research activities at their hosting universities.

Another, the 11th early stage researcher, was recruited in the application process in March 2017. 13 applications for this position were re-

ceived, 4 candidates were invited to job-interviews. The interviews were conducted via skype, following the same structure as the interviews of the first call. For the four open positions, job-interviews will be conduc-

ted in June in Košice, the calls are open until May 31st. Researchers will start their research in September 2017.

Britta Trostorff
urbanHIST project manager

Introducing Project Website www.urbanhist.eu

The website of urbanHIST project aims to be the public image of urbanHIST and the prime online access point, fulfilling the natural need to inform on the project as well as the obligatory requirement to communicate on the project and disseminate its scientific findings. The project website was created and launched in November 2016 by Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach (UPJŠ, Slovakia), the beneficiary in charge of the Work Package 3 – Communication and Dissemination.

The first version of the website was created and launched by the UPJŠ team during the preparatory and hectic recruitment stage, in November 2016. However, the first ideas of this demanding and challenging task were born and communicated within the consortium much sooner and the first steps towards the successful launch had already been made during summer 2016. The domain name www.urbanhist.eu was chosen in order to reflect the name of the project, to increase the accessibility of the webpage on the Internet by simply typing the name of the project in a search engine.

Website structure

The website currently presents the vital information on the project in the following sections:

- Home (introducing the project logo, logos of all four beneficiaries, providing the latest project announcements and information, calls for applicants, calls for publication contributions and obviously, the obligatory acknowledgement of the EU funding);
- Project (providing a summary of the project, a general description of the background and objectives of the project);

- Consortium (introducing the 4 beneficiaries of urbanHIST and 13 academic and non-academic partner organisations of the project that will host researchers during secondments and will participate in training);
- People (providing an overview of urbanHIST management and research teams, presenting the members of urbanHIST Advisory Board, further enrichment of the project as such);
- Events and Photos (main training events at the consortium level are presented in more detail, thus fulfilling two purposes – to provide an overview of the planned events and to inform on the past events);
- Resources (a list of useful public documents related to Marie Curie Actions is published together with the archive section);
- Contact (contact form for the quick and efficient communication with the project manager is provided).

The structure of individual sections will in the future reflect the further evolving of urbanHIST – the Newsletter and urbanHIST Blog will be added, together will publication of the urbanHIST manual, recorded sessions from the workshops, webinars and other urbanHIST training events.

Website impact

The website constitutes the key communication and dissemination tool in systematically and strategically increasing the project impact. In the first months, the website was essential in order to present the project, promote the urbanHIST philosophy, PhD fellowships and receive applications. Several queries were received by the Project Manager through the 'Contact us'

section of the website, especially from applicants who needed clarifications on eligibility criteria. The website impact is further enhanced by including social media buttons - as the cardinal strategic communication and dissemination policy of urbanHIST interconnects the website with the social media. The urbanHIST communication team also operates social media accounts on Facebook and on Twitter and thus the overall project impact is considerably increased.

Website future developments

The project website will be a dynamic tool: its structure will continuously adapt to the changing phases of the project; moreover, it will reflect the intention of the urbanHIST consortium to communicate the project ideas and to disseminate the project results in a strategic and systematic manner.

Its content will be regularly updated by the UPJŠ team with the contribution from the consortium. The website will be maintained with updates about the project meetings, the information will be published on the main milestones and project results along with the description of major activities of the ESRs and the whole coordination and research team. The structure of the website will be enhanced with additional menu items as more comprehensive results are delivered. All changes to the website will be driven by the needs of the project and in consultation with the appropriate project partners.

Introducing the UPJŠ communication team

Martin Pekár - Local urbanHIST Director, Chair of urbanHIST Editor's Board and Dissemination Committee
Katarína Hajduková - Local urbanHIST Coordinator
Tomáš Polák - urbanHIST webmaster
Zuzana Tokárová - urbanHIST Newsletter Editor

Katarína Hajduková
UPJŠ local coordinator

Matěj SPURNÝ

The Bridge into the Future Laboratory of Socialist Modernity in North of Bohemia

[Most do budoucnosti. Laboratoř socialistické modernity na severu Čech]. Praha : Karolinum, 2016. 247 p. ISBN 978-80-246-3332-9.

The town of Most is located in the northwest of the Czech Republic and it is one of the settlements with a lasting and rich history. The reference to the existence of Most can be found already in The Chronicle of the Czechs by Cosmas of Prague from the 10th century. The town experienced several periods of growth, whereby the last one is associated with the discovery of rich coal deposits at the end of the 19th century. In addition to the development of industry and infrastructure, this period of development brought about also the beginning of the end for the historic town centre. Throughout the period

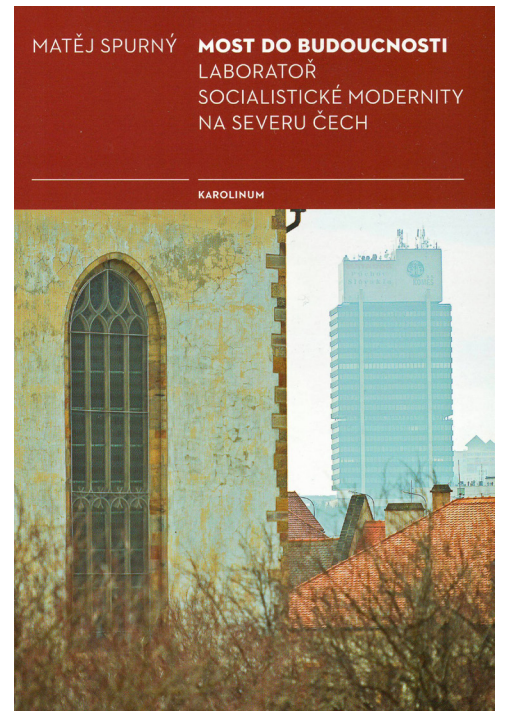
from the mid-1960s to the second half of the 1980s it fell victim to the gradual demolition for exploitation of strategically extremely important mineral.

The annotated monograph by Matěj Spurný presents the analysis of issues and problems related to the disposal of the old town and the building of the new town of Most. It is focused on the genesis of the decision, actors and implementation of the plan, the daily reality of the city and it also suggests environmental, urban-architectural, social and historical aspects of the topic. It does not avoid the wider comparisons

within the Eastern bloc, even beyond it. Based on these sub-topics the core of the book is divided into seven chapters. In terms of chronology, the publication is primarily focused on the 1950s and 1960s. Varied conglomerate of issues required a wide range of methodological basis and methodological approaches, the knowledge of which the author demonstrates with a

rich list of sources and especially with his own text. The publication includes an index and also about 30 pictures. The monograph by M. Spurný is an interesting and inspiring reading, both in terms of topics and methods. Soon after its publication it caused professional controversy in the Czech Republic, which serves as a proof of establishing its way to readers. We believe it has the potential to reach the professional as well as wider audience.

Martin Pekár
UPJŠ local director



The town Most between past and future

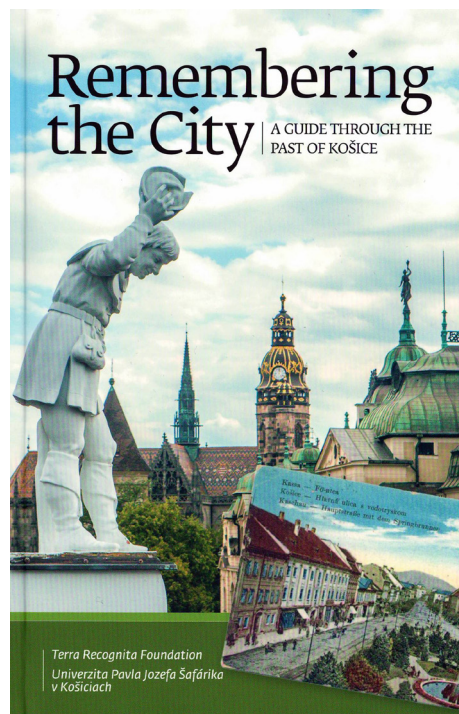
Veronika GAYER, Slávka OTČENÁŠOVÁ, Csaba ZAHORÁN et al.

Remembering the City A Guide through the Past of Košice

Budapest – Košice : Terra Recognita Foundation – Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, 2013. 176 s. ISBN 978-963-89185-2-8.

Košice was designated by the European Union to become the European Capital of Culture in 2013. There was a strong reason behind this decision: Košice had been an important multicultural and multiethnic city and a meeting point for people coming from different regions – all with different origins and backgrounds – and yet wishing to meet, socialize, and get to know one another. However, the multiethnic and multicultural past and present of Košice has, since the 19th century, been frequently used in regional politics and in the national historiographies of the Visegrad countries as a dividing point. It has served as a platform for creating competing narratives, often promoting negative stereotypes about the Other. Young historians from Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland, the majority of whom was based at or related to the Department of History at UPJŠ, decided to cooperate and create a book that would promote the rich past of the city of Košice, as well as enhance the international dialogue between new generations of historians in the region. Their aim was to make a contemporary guide through the city and its history, which would show that it was possible to cooperate on a joint project, and approach the topic of shared histories from different points of view. Throughout the process of writing the book, it became clear how much the young authors were influenced by their national historiographies and how difficult it was for them to go beyond the traditional national narratives. However, the mutual meetings, discussions, and the opportunities to get to know each other had a crucial impact on developing their work and establishing a solid foundation for their possible future cooperation.

In the book, young historians presented their own perceptions of what was important for Košice in different historical periods. They constructed their narratives on the basis of a selection from many historical data, which they found to be the most relevant for their own story about Košice that they decided to present to readers. The stories presented by the authors were influenced by many factors: by their education; by the different national historiographies they stem from, which often offer competing narratives; and also by their individual interests and preferences. Thus, the whole book is a subjective piece of work, created by many individuals, who present their own personal choices about what has been significant about the city of Košice since its



foundation. Through the narratives focusing on iconic buildings in the city and their connection to different ethnicities that have been living in the city since its establishment, the authors managed to recreate a story of the place where a 15th century merchant from Poland would meet his Hungarian colleague and discuss joint business possibilities with him, where a German prince met the representative of the Ottoman sultan at a 17th century wedding party, and they created an opportunity for today's visitors to Košice to continue this good tradition of meeting the Other and appreciating diversity.

The project was supported by the Terra Recognita Alapítvány from Budapest, Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika in Košice, Větrný mlýny in Brno and Fundacja Res Publica im. Henryka Krzeczowskiiego in Warsaw, Ballasi intézet, and others. Financial support was provided by the International Visegrad Fund, the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity and Pro Renovanda Cultura Hungariae.

Slávka Otčenášová
urbanHIST research consultant

urbanHIST Session on EAUH 2018 Rome

This session proposal was presented by Max Welch Guerra, Prof. Dr. habil. (Director of Bauhaus Institute for History and Theory of Architecture and Planning, Project programme director of urbanHIST | 20th Century European Urbanism EC HORIZON 2020) and Petr Roubal, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Institute of Contemporary History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic) at the 14th International Conference on Urban History – Urban renewal and resilience cities in comparative perspective, organized by European Association for Urban History (EAUH).

A parallel story? Urban renewal in East and West

In post-war Europe, both East and West, the historic city centres and central residential areas that were built before WWI were not valued particularly highly. Large-scale clearance, i.e. the planned destruction of central residential areas, began in Western Europe in the 1960s. The plans for a radical renewal of the historic centres, in contrast, were as a rule only partially put into operation, if at all, in both East and West.

In very different socio-political situations – for example regarding private ownership of land and political freedom – and under very different urban planning conditions a remarkable change in urban development policy took place throughout Europe in the 1970s. In a process fraught with conflict, both the historic centres and the central residential areas were reappraised. This reappraisal was accompanied by an internationalised academic debate leading to very different renewal models. The difference regarding large housing estates on the perimeters of cities appears even greater. While in Eastern and Central Europe these con-

tinued to be built until the collapse of socialism (and beyond), the large housing estates in Western Europe themselves became a new, third area of urban renewal in the 1980s.

The aims of the urban renewal programmes were changes in both urban development and function, sometimes including changes in the population structure. Ambitious urban renewal programmes were formulated and legal, institutional and financial resources mobilised. The implementation of these programmes sometimes caused considerable conflict with the local population. In both Cold War power blocs we find a broad range of practices, from brutal intervention – including towards the population – to cautious upgrading.

Urban renewal means a conceptual reorientation on the part of urban administrations and academic disciplines and requires new methods of urban development stocktaking, decision-making, legitimation and implementation. Urban renewal was a major step towards the diversification of urban development policy.

Although many urban renewal projects were only partially implemented, they generally changed the parameters of urban development policy and urban economics. They changed cities durably and their effects can still be felt today even if they are not always obvious.

The session aims to examine trans-national parallels and divergences in European urban renewal policy up to 2000. Preference will be given to contributions towards a pan-European view of this major phase of urban development in the 20th century based on the dimensions of urban renewal named above.

Max Welch Guerra
urbanHIST project director

Petr Roubal
urbanHIST supervisor for ESR